

Moniz-Carroll, Rhonda

From: Wendy LeonGambetta <wendyleongambetta@icloud.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2015 6:22 PM
To: JudTestimony
Subject: Support for SB660, HB6848, HB6962

Testimony to the Judiciary Committee in support of Proposed Senate Bill No. 650, House Bill No. 6848, and House Bill No. 6962

My name is Wendy Leon-Gambetta, I live at 18 Sawmill Ridge Rd in Newtown and I am here to show my support for Senate Bill 650, House Bill 6848 and House Bill 6962.

Last Sunday I received an email from a hard working gun violence prevention group, asking for my support. As I often do, I shared it with my Facebook friends. I wondered if any of them would roll their eyes and think, "Ugh. Not her again, with more sad postings from Newtown." But Sunday would have been Dylan's 9th birthday, so I shared it anyway. For Dylan, a beautiful boy whom I never knew.

I'm from Newtown, so there are some things I have come to understand that most of my Facebook friends do not. One thing I understand is that the birthdays keep coming--sad reminders of the precious little souls missing from my community. I now understand that once gun violence touches your life, you will never be the same. And I understand that we simply cannot continue to allow innocent Americans to be murdered because the wrong person had access to firearms.

I also understand that what happened at Sandy Hook Elementary School was, thank God, an exception to the rule. Most Americans who die from gunshot wounds are not six and seven year olds killed in their first grade classrooms. It is more likely that people, particularly women, will be shot by violent domestic partners than in school shootings. Sadly, I have come to learn and understand that others, many of them children, die from tragic accidents with unsecured guns in the home.

What I struggle to understand is why anyone would oppose common sense measures such as those before you. It's hard to comprehend why we wouldn't all want to join together to do everything in our collective power to keep one another safe from harm--why we wouldn't try really, really hard to keep dangerous weapons out of the hands of those who shouldn't have them, whether those individuals are enraged domestic partners, mentally unstable individuals or curious children. And I'm not sure I will ever understand why disrupting a person's access to firearms could be deemed more important than the loss of life that could result from *not* doing so.

As someone who lives within a community of broken hearts, of people who are forever changed, I ask you to please support Senate Bill 650, House Bill 6848 and House Bill 6962.

Thank you.
Wendy Leon-Gambetta

18 Sawmill Ridge Rd
Newtown